

SYN. NO. _____

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS ZEV YAROSLAVSKY AND
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In 2003, California's key energy agencies developed a State Energy Action Plan. The Energy Action Plan was last updated in 2005 and provides an implementation roadmap for state government, local governments and other public agencies to meet new resource demands, embrace environmental sustainability and increase public awareness of energy issues.

Over the past thirty years, the Board of Supervisors has adopted a number of energy related policies with the goal of reducing County energy consumption and saving taxpayer dollars. In 1994, the Board established the Energy Management Program in ISD. Since then, utility purchases and energy efficiency initiatives such as lighting system retrofits and retro-commissioning have saved more than \$100 million. Most recently, we adopted a policy of purchasing hybrid vehicles to replace gasoline powered vehicles in the County's fleet.

Although the County continues to make progress in utility purchases, energy efficiency projects and other related energy initiatives, the County lacks an overall policy to provide consistent direction on energy issues. Such a policy would also establish environmental sustainability standards for all County operations, and would guide the allocation of resources necessary to develop comprehensive energy use goals and plans in support of the County's Strategic Plan and the State Energy Action Plan.

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The time is now for the County to develop a comprehensive County energy policy. In 2002, the Board of Supervisors directed the CAO, ISD, and Public Works to investigate the feasibility of incorporating sustainable design standards into all future projects exceeding 7,500 square feet built by Los Angeles County. The CAO recommended against creating a policy of building green due to high costs and untested green building techniques. Since then, significant advancements have been made in the green building industry, reducing the fiscal constraints. The United States Green Building Council lists well over 1,000 buildings nationwide that have achieved an official green building certification, and states that the average cost increase ranges from zero to only 7 percent.

A County energy policy would include, but not be limited to, the following areas:

- Criteria for further implementation of new and cost-effective energy efficiency technologies;
- Development of “green” building strategies for the construction of new and operations and maintenance of existing County buildings;
- Adoption of environmental sustainability standards related to renewable resources, alternative fuels, recycling, and greenhouse gas emissions; and,
- Expanding industry awareness and fostering greater participation in energy assistance programs.

While the County energy policy would first be applied to County-owned buildings and infrastructure, we could explore ways to extend the policy’s sustainable energy use plans throughout the region by working with other local governments, public agencies, and industry organizations.

WE, THERFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Internal Services Department to convene and chair a task force that includes the Chief Administrative Office, Department of Public Works, Regional Planning Department and other key departments to examine and report back to the Board in 60 days with recommendations for a comprehensive County energy policy. The report shall include, but not be limited to: recommending an appropriate scope; identifying short and long-term objectives; determining appropriate County resources to implement policy; integrating other County policies related to natural resources use and planning; and identifying funding mechanisms to ensure the long-term implementation of policy objectives.